News item captioned "South Indian Tea Fighting to survive"

1272. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "South Indian Tea Fighting to survive" which appeared in the *Telegraph* of 21st July, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that the South India's tea industry is in the deep crisis with several units selling their output below production cost; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to save the South India's tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Prices of tea at South Indian auction centres have been depressed mainly on account of subdued buying operations by some of the major importing countries coupled with general decline in international tea prices. Efforts are being made to persuade the major importers of South Indian tea actively participate in Auction Centres in South India.

Realisation of loan from farmers in Tamil Nadu

1273. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major trading community/Chamber of Commerce and such other bodies in Tamil Nadu have opined that stringent measures be taken for realising loans given to small and medium farmers instead of punishing the bank officers for non-payment of loans; and

(b) what steps have been taken to strengthen the whole procedure of realising bank loans without causing concern to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Both Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have issued instructions to the banks fixing suitable periods for repayment of term loans for different purposes. The period of repayment is normally based on the net incremental income generated from the assets acquired out of loans. In the case of short-term agricultural loans the date of repayment is fixed with reference to the harvesting seasons. In the case of other loans also, the repayment schedule is to be fixed as per the expected accrual of income.

Banks have been advised the need for proper supervision and follow up action for ensuring proper utilisation of the loans. Banks have also been advised to conduct a case by case analysis of the defaulter borrowers and to provide necessary relief to non-wilful defaulters, in deserving cases.

Bank officers are responsible for proper supervision of loans and to ensure proper end use of funds.

Only where it is found that there have been lapses on the part of bank officers either in the matter of grant of loans or in the monitoring of their repayment, wherever loans have been given, punishments are meted out to them.

Production of jute in Tripura

1274. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of jute produced in the State of Tripura in the year 1985;

(b) what quantum of jute was procured by the Jute Corporation of India and their agents from Tripura and at what rate;

(c) whether it is a fact that JCI did not receive the jute that was purchased by their agents in the year 1985; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the estimated production of jute in Tripura this year and what was the target of purchase by JCI and what is the proposed support price; and

(e) what is the storage capacity of JCI in Tripura and whether it has been increased for the year 1986?